

Don Klein

I came to the area in 1966. I had been coming out here earlier than that because my in-laws lived in Lake in the Hills so I was somewhat familiar with the area but not very intimately. Considered it a beautiful area having driven through it so much. It was even less developed then than it is now, obviously, we've added a few people. Up to what? I think we're around 40,000 now. Moved to South Barrington and at that time there were 373 people in South Barrington. The McCormick Farm was still on Penny Road at that time and they used it. One of the interesting things the McCormick's did was, they would take a surveying instrument to level the pea gravel on their driveway so that it was absolutely perfectly level all the way through the driveway. I mean, that's how fastidious they were about the way things were. The barns and everything were absolutely gorgeous on that place. And at that time what is now the Stillman Nature Preserve on Penny Road was owned by a nephew of one of the McCormick's, I think it was Fifi, and Stillman, Alex Stillman was a very strange fellow, very strange fellow. He used to come out on the road, on Penny Road with his pockets full of pennies and nickels and dimes and stuff and he would walk up and down the road and throw coins in the air so he would watch the kids run after them. There were about fifty pair of pheasants on the Stillman property at that time. It was absolutely gorgeous place with a lot of wildlife and the rest of that. Stillman was a, imagined himself to be an artist, well I guess it all depends on what you call art, your judgment of his art. He painted a lot, he painted in his garage and he'd hung these paintings all over the place. It was really amazing to see the stuff he turned out. But, it was a strange place. I'm very happy to see the current uses of the Stillman property now and the nature preserve there with Mark Spreyer and his gang taking such good care of it.

But there were very few people then and the Witt Farm was the center part of that whole area there with the big lake in the middle and that became The Coves development. It was the Witt Farm for a long time and in fact they used to, a lot of the people, Irv Shermer (?) who lived right on the edge of the Witt Farm used to hunt rabbit and foxes and things on the farm with his beagle dogs and they would howl and there would be about ten or fifteen dogs and he would ride on horseback across that area chasing after his beagle dogs. Because that whole area was completely undeveloped and it was nature land. A lot of foxes and a lot of pheasants surprisingly enough at that time. Pheasants, there aren't a lot of pheasants around anymore at all. It was an area with a lot of wildlife at that time, an awful lot of it. We didn't have very many people though and we used to have some great New Year's Eve parties with the few people that there were we'd all come to those parties.

I was not born in the Barrington Area I was born in Milwaukee. I came down in, to this area in 1950. I came down to the Barrington area or at least the Chicago area in 1954 to work as a magazine editor for a National Union and then edited and then became the manager of the Lake Meadows housing development Chicago which is two thousand units on the near south side of Chicago. It was the largest integrated housing development in the country. We had all sorts of famous visitors. Queen Elizabeth and all the people wanted to just come and see how we were managing to keep these two thousand apartments and all the people in them, about sixty-five hundred people how we were managing to keep them from killing each other and doing something odd to each other. And actually it was working out very, very well. It was the first major development on the near South Side. It was near Michael Reese Hospital, and across from near Mercy and across from IIT so we had a lot of professors, students, and doctors, interns and that kind of thing. It was during the, I'll never forget, during the riots that came after '65 and '68, Watts and then King's assassination that we had a lot of the interns and doctors that went into the city, into the loop area to try to take care of the people that were down there that were injured. One of our interns from Lake Meadows was down there taking care of things and they came back and reported some horrendous stories of the riots and the things that were going down. I was at down in the city there working there for about eleven years.

After that I worked for James Downs, Jim Downs who was a rather famous figure in Chicago for his planning and the work he did. He and his son, Tony Downs who is now at the Brookings Institution. But Tony was his son, and Tony was a strange fellow. He used to wear a watch on each wrist so he had a watch for when he left one area and a watch for when he arrived at the other area. Real Estate Research Corporation, I don't know if you know it the RERC was one of the largest planning consulting firms in the country. We did a lot of work for Mayor Daley. We did work all over the country. I used to fly into Washington quite often. We were working on integrated housing developments across the country and those two, especially Tony was an interesting guy to work for. But that was before I came out and went to work for the Barrington Area Council of Governments which was formed in 1970.

Actually, the Barrington Area Development Council which was formed in 1966, if I'm not mistaken, '65 or '66 which was the citizens group. They were concerned because they felt that the open space and the beautiful countryside areas surrounding the village of Barrington were going to be developed. There were over 7,000 housing units planned for the area. At that time in future developments and the people said, "No, we can't have that because it won't be the same Barrington area." So they got together, the school district and the Barrington Area Development Council, the BADC which was formed at that time by the interested groups, the interested citizen groups said we've got to have something some studies done to see what are our alternatives in terms of development, how can we achieve that and what kind of government structure should we have? So, they hired the firm of they hired Real Estate Research Corporation. They did some studies and I should say Bob Tes, not Real Estate Research Corporation, Bob Teska and Associates they hired Bob and his gang of planners for Teska. And they came out and did three studies, one which was the Growth Alternatives, the other was the Background Study of the area and they did growth and governmental alternatives and then they did a financial study of what some of this would cost and what the finances for the area could be. And they recommended then that two organizations be formed. Out of that study, were two recommendations that they actually implemented. One, that there be an environmental group, which became Citizens for Conservation and Frank Spreyer, who just died was one of the original board members; he and Bill Miller, who was another really interesting character and really great guy, he became they were some of the first leading lights of the Citizens for Conservation. The other organization that they recommended be formed to organize the development of the Barrington area was a governmental group which would bind together the seven villages of the Barrington area in a regional planning group which would tie the entire area together regionally and that became the Barrington Area Council of Governments and they formed that, well BADC was formed in '66, BACOG was formed in April of 1970 and I was its first director.

I came out from, actually a buddy of mine who is the director of the Lake County Planning Department had become a very good friend said, "Don't they're forming a new and goofy organization in this Barrington area and they're going to probably need a director. Why don't you go out there see if you can go out and do some planning out there?" So I did. The first man I had lunch with Cy Wagner who was the mayor of Tower Lakes at that time. Cy was also Vice President for NBC in Chicago, television. So we got together for lunch I'll never forget that he asked me all sorts..., "Why would you want to do, go out there and do a crazy job like BACOG? He says, I don't know, you know, if this is going to work." In fact, I can remember Fred Voss the mayor of Barrington at that time who owned his own company, Powered Systems, he was an engineer. Fred looked at me when I first came on board, he says "Don't I don't know why you took this job either, it's not going to last more than 6 months." That's what he said, well here we are some thirty years later, obviously, more than thirty years, thirty six wasn't it? Thirty-six now and with a very good director, Janet Agnoletti..... So and but we survived some bumpy times, the Centex, the huge Centex development in South Barrington. I don't know if you've talked to people about that?

I haven't talked to people, but I've read things in the Courier during that time period.

It was huge they were going take an area that was developed in a very large lot way and they were going to put an awful lots of houses out there and that development, the Centex development, bound the area together just about the time they were thinking of forming a BACOG and to do that, and the citizens all were very anxious about it also.

Actually, the accelerator in Illinois which was a government project for the famous accelerator was originally planned for the South Barrington area.

Really?

Did you know that?

No.

Yeah. And then the people down there said they talked to Senator Douglas, who was our senator at the time. And they said they weren't too happy about having an accelerator in their beautiful countryside area. And he says, "How can you turn it down? He said, "The people all over the country are fighting to get this in their backyard and you people are turning it down." "Yeah, we're turning it down." So it was turned down surprisingly enough and then the Centex development was planned for that area. That really got the area bound together to fight that development, which was very dense. It was in front of the, it was in front of the Cook County Zoning Board and the head of the Cook County Zoning Board, I'm trying to think of it, it's a really good name said, "I don't know if your fledgling organization, this BACOG is going to work or not and your opposition to this development" he says, "But I'll tell you, he says, I'm going to give you a chance, I'm going to give you people a chance to make your planning policies work and if they do, then we'll all be happy, but if they don't he says I'll invite the developer back to present his plan again." And so we were obviously had a great incentive for working together to do all that and it did. It's interesting testimony during the fight against the Centex development by people like Al Bora who was a really unique individual, lived in Barrington Hills and Al was a character to say the least but he was very active in protecting this area, a wonderful man just absolutely wonderful. People down there who were active in fighting that thing were Bill Rose who owns the Rose Packing and all the buildings down on that little complex that he's got and I can remember I was Planning Commission Chairman for South Barrington when he came to the village and asked if we'd re-zone that property so he could put those things there, and we did. It was an incredible area in terms of the people that were willing to devote an awful lot of their time to protecting this area. Ruth and Art Moore, for instance who lived in Barrington Hills, they live in California now, but were very active in the area. Delores Wagner who was the wife of the former mayor of Tower Lakes—just so many people.

And the cooperation between the school district. Then we had three components of the school district. We had District 1, we had District 4 and we had District 220 which is the high school district. Now we have one, I can still remember the discussions and the arguments for forming a unit district and a lot of people didn't want to. The people in the countryside which was District 1, I think it was. In Barrington Hills that area, they didn't want a unified district, they had their own school district out there for (I shouldn't, you shouldn't write this down) but for their own, in their own mind they're a rich group out there and their value systems and stuff they wanted to protect that. District 4 which was the interior of the area of village of Barrington, which was a little more I say, I don't say cosmopolitan, but a more liberal-minded, group who wanted to be a, have a diverse kind of a school district. And 220 the school district, the high school district which was not as big as it is today, which is approaching 3,000. There was some talk then, as it got bigger, that we may have to think about two high schools one for the south area and one for the north area.

We got into some battles with our neighbors, the neighboring villages around us, Hoffman Estates being one and the very famous then mayor of Hoffman who is a very good friend of mine. And now I think she's clerk down there now. Ginny Hayter, who is an unbelievable gal. At one time I can remember Ginny and I having lunch and we talked about Hoffman Estates joining BACOG and they would have been our south person, village in the organization, but that never happened, we were fighting more than we were being friends so that could never happen. But there were a lot of plans for the area where Prairie Stone I think it's the area, on the toll road down there. We had all sorts of proposals for that area, a garbage dump was one. Of course, we put plans together and fought that like crazy. But there were all sorts of things they were going to put there: a big music theater, outdoor music theater, which is there. And we got just an amazing number of suggestions on what to do with that property. So there have been an awful lot of incredibly dense development proposals over the years there have been some strange ones over the years, oh I wish I could remember all the goofy proposals we have had for land in this area. The area has managed to maintain for thirty some years now has managed to maintain that character and the people have managed to keep the organizations together, Citizens and BACOG and BADC are still alive and well and doing their work.

When did I move here? '66. Was I born here? No, I was born in Milwaukee. Where did I live in Barrington? I, the house I lived in in South Barrington which was my first house here, I bought for thirty seven thousand dollars. It was the old Holbrook Estate house. It had fourteen rooms. It was the original farm and estate house for the entire South Barrington Area. Holbrook was the guy who owned all that land down there and my house when I first looked at it I can remember John Coatsworth who worked for Dayton Nance Real Estate here. When I came out this was in '66 I think it was or late '65. I came out and he says, "I got a house here." He said "I don't know, he says this is kind of a strange house." And so we went in there and there was a wild cat living in the main bedroom and the windows were not sealed and the place needed incredible amounts of work. My father-in-law helped me do some of the work and eventually over the years other people and it became what it is today. Thirty-seven thousand, I think you probably couldn't buy that place for over five or six hundred thousand now. There's a swimming pool and I had, we always had the stable and the tack room on the property because I had I don't know how many acres there were five acres or so. To give you an example when they developed the Coves development in back of me, they divided the property into lots, and there were about four lots that backed off my backside of my property, I had my horse trail in the back there. So the guys came up, this was Bill Rose and Bob Hack and Fred Schurecht who built the Barn Restaurant and who has marvelous children, I don't know if you know Diane Schurecht and those people?

No I don't think I do.

Marvelous gang of people and Fred was one of my very good, good friends. And they said, "You know Don, you should really buy these four or five lots back here and just square off your property." I said, oh, you guys want too much money." Do you know what they wanted, five thousand dollars a piece for those lots. And they were sold for over a hundred thousand dollars at a later date. When I think back of how the land values have changed here. A lot of things that I got to see were.

Who were my neighbors? Well I mentioned some of them, Jean DiMonte who became a very active lawyer in this area and active in civic associations lived across Penny Road from me. I can't even think of the name of the subdivision. The McNeals lived right across the street from me, Earl McNeal, marvelous guy, had an incredible gun collection and he was in the asphalt business. My sons and I would play tennis on the old barn foundation that was on my property, the concrete was kind of cracked and stuff, but it was there. And Earl, he used to see us playing on that old barn foundation and he said, "You know Don, you should really asphalt that thing and get it to look like a tennis court." I said, "I can't afford that, sorry Earl." I came home one night, I'll never forget it, and there it was asphalted completely .

Great.

Earl did it.

Yah. Great guy, super guy.

Let me see what else. Other neighbors? There are so many names I should remember and I don't really now, the DiMonte's. I used to ride the train into town before I became head of BACOG, I worked at Real Estate Research as I said, I would ride the train with Jean and Bonnie and that gang. Jerry Estes who lives in this area too and he was the head of planning for Lake County.

Clubs and Organizations? Well, you know, I was active because of the work with BACOG, at almost all the organizations. I spent a year or more holding meetings at the Barrington Hills or at the Presbyterian Church out in Barrington Hills out on what was that, I should know. You know where it is. We held meetings for a year to form an arts council. In fact, there was a picture that was in the Courier of my suggesting, suggesting that we form an arts council for the area. We convinced, we got these people from various arts organizations who were very reluctant to form an arts council. They said, first of all, people won't do anything out here they have to go to Chicago for that. Secondly, he couldn't see a need because we all have our organizations: the lyric and the ballet and the rest, you know. We don't need anything out here. Well here we are thirty some years later and the arts council is as strong as it's ever been.

And we convinced, oh what's her name...she became the first head of the arts council...he used to be the man who used to own the Courier; I'm trying to think of the woman's name. But his wife; we got her to become the first head of the arts council. So, she became known as the person who started the arts council, which I view with a chuckle; especially since we had to convince her to take the job.

Are the people still neighbors? A lot of those people who are on Penny Road have moved, I've moved since then, and then moved into town and lived in the village for a while, then moved out to the north side of the area out to my present...

What role does the Barrington Area Library play? Now you got to remember, the library wasn't always this library, ok. Remember the little tiny place that's now the Township office there? That was our library, ok. And we said to ourselves, "this building will not suffice to serve a 90 square mile or 80-", you realize, in land area, you are the largest library district in the state, right? And we said, "How can you serve a district that large with that hinky-dinky little building that you have there on Hough Street. And so we got a group together and said "Let's talk about a regional library." And they did. And they did a hell of a job. I wish we had passed the referendum this last time to give us a- because we're getting to the point where the library is getting very, very crowded because you've got a lot more people and the same land area, I think, but a lot more people. But it was planned well and the people really did a job, who served on that committee, to bind the area together to vote for a new library, a regional library rather than...That was the village of Barrington, really, library, at that time. I don't know if you knew that. It was Barrington, and everybody else would come in and feed off it. But then it became the Barrington Area Library and it became what it is now, which is an incredible institution.

What do you remember that is no longer in the Barrington Area? Oh I got to tell you something about the Barn restaurant. Fred Schurecht came up to me and he says, "You know I'm thinking of building a restaurant in town." He said, he used to go to Europe a lot, Fred did. And he had a place in Marbella. And I went over there a couple times with him to his place there and he talked to me, he said, "I want to build a restaurant where I can bring all these artifacts, that I've gotten in Spain and stuff, back and put them in the restaurant." As you notice, if you've been to the Barn restaurant, all those little kitschy, kutschy things all over the place.

You couldn't put another little jim crack in that place without it over doing it. He said, "Do you think a restaurant alone, so I'll put it along Barrington Rd., here on the south side." And I said, "Well, you know something Fred, you know people don't eat where they live. They want to go somewhere else, so I don't think your restaurant is going to be very successful." Well, it was one of my famous wrong predictions, because it became a very good restaurant, and it is to this day. But as I think of that now, "What do you think of the idea of a restaurant?" I said: "People don't eat where they live, so Fred, I don't think it's going to be any good."

What's no longer in the area? I'm thinking, all of the things that were torn down. Lotta the countryside. The open area down there, which is now the Prairie Stone development, which is I guess they're gonna have a big theater, or music or something down there aren't they, well they've planned that, they've had plans for something like that there for a long long time. I can remember when Ginny and I were talking about, Ginny Hayter was the mayor of Hoffman, this guy came in with this proposal. He was gonna put a, the largest building in the world, he said, on that property. The largest building in the world. We said oh sure. Well we never heard from him for a long time. We've had a lot of proposals when that land was open. Besides the garbage dump, of course, and various other things. It's becoming, I know there are some people in South Barrington who don't like the noise it creates, and things like that. It's probably getting closer I think to what Ginny and that gang and we had ideas for that area.

What did we do for fun in the area? Well, Irv Shirmer chased after the foxes with his beagle hounds, and I didn't do that though. We hiked. We had great parties in South Barrington in those days, among those 373 people, great New Year's Eve parties. And Mike Graft, who

The builder

You know him

Yes, um-hm

Well I should not say this, but I will anyhow. He's sort of a stick in the mud. He was kind of a straight-laced guy, a very serious man. And so a whole gang of us would get together on New Year's Eve, and go over to his house, late late late, and sing all sorts of things, all sorts of crazy, sometimes bawdy songs, all sorts of songs and keep him up. And he just resented the hell out of that. But that was a lot fun when we did that.

"Where did you go, on a date?" A date? I was married. We ate here, around here. We ate in East Dundee, in the restaurants in the Dundee area, in Algonquin. The original restaurant was on the corner there, and I'm trying to think of the name, it burned down.

Oh.

You know what I'm talking about.

Yea, I think I do.

The um I can't think of it. Countryside or something. I don't know what it was. Well, anyway we went there.

We went over to the Country Squire, which was a place that I had my wedding reception way over in Grayslake area there.

Where did the kids go to swim? They swam in the Cove's lake right there, and when the pool was built in Barrington, they went there. Ice skate? We ice skated, a lot of people had ponds here, and the kids would skate right on their own property.

Where did we shop? You know, there wasn't much in Barrington then. I'm a little disturbed we're getting more banks, and more lawyers, which we've always had a lot of and more cleaning establishments... I think we need more diversity in terms of our shopping potential here. The stores were all...a lot of mom and pop stores. And we had really interesting people constantly try to put a bookstore in this town. They constantly tried and they constantly didn't make it. And when I think of all the attempts that were made to put a bookstore in Barrington, none of them succeeded. We should have a bookstore here, but oh well.

I went to St. Anne's church. St. Anne's was small then too. And I had a good good friend of mine, the Methodist minister in town, Bill Kirk. I don't know if you knew Bill.

Un-uh.

Bill was an absolutely, incredibly marvelous man. He's in I think Arlington Heights or somewhere now. He was just a guy who could bring people together. I was very sorry to see the church torn down because I was married in that church.

How did you commute to Chicago? On the Northwestern for three years and I drove into town when I was working for Real Estate Research, I worked in the loop. And we would take the train in the winter time, and I taught at DePaul for 11 years. So I taught at night, worked during the day, taught at night. And I can remember many in winter time many a time when my classes were over around 10 o'clock at night, and I would set out for Barrington, in a blizzard or something like that where you couldn't even see the road, and I said "God I still have 30 miles to go to get home". And I remember those days I can remember just not knowing knowing where the road was, I just followed the taillights of the car ahead of me and see what we could do. We went in on a train, and there was a group of us, like there is now the young people that commute together on the train. A lot of them play bridge or do that. We used to sit together and tell all these wild stories to each other. I can remember during one of the huge snow storms, I can't remember what day it was. I came out with Frank Gaughan(?) who's an attorney who lived in an unincorporated area just south of South Barrington. And Frank, he and I had our cars in the lot. I don't think he, I guess he called his wife, she couldn't get in even to pick him up so, we went in my car. ...We got as far as, I think, Algonquin Road and then we had to push the car for a little while to get it out of the snow drifts and then we finally got going again. I got him to his house finally, and then I got stuck, so he had to push me back to my house, which was, I was like about half a mile away from him. It was a horrendous night, I'll never forget it. The train station in those days. We didn't even, I don't think we had johns at all. There weren't any lavatories or anything. It was a goofy place. I'm mean there was no, no coffee or anything. I remember the famous place in town where you should really get more people to use this too the Towne Shoppe. It was called the Towne Shoppe. Nibbs Veath and Audrey Veath. Audrey still lives in town on Station. Nibb was a character, he was, he had a quite pronounced temper. But he also would get really ticked off at those guys who were always saying that the New York Times is the only kind of paper they would read. He considered a lot, having been in this area for so long, he and Audrey, they ran the Towne Shoppe like more of a Barrington small town establishment than the, the snooty New York Times readers and stuff. I can remember one time I was in The Towne Shoppe the gal sitting, she used to be a model or something, she was sitting at the end of the counter and Nibb got very angry about something and he threw the dishrag that he had in his hand and he didn't know where he was throwing it and it hit her right in the face. I went huh? He was a char....he was something else again.

Well I don't know what else I can tell you. You know the stories here go on and on and on and on...

There's some on the back. Oh there's some more here? Oh, school days? I didn't attend any in the Barrington area.

Teachers? There have been some famous high school teachers here, Charlie White for instance. You know that name. Oh yes. Charlie is still a great guy. I see him every once in a while and we have a good, great time. The English department was always strong at the high school and still is as a matter of fact. Jeanie Capellos Do you know Jeanie? I do. You do? Oh ok. That whole gang. The school wasn't isn't quite the institution it is now. It's so big now. I have a son that goes there now, he's a sophomore going to be a junior, and my daughter is now going to be a freshman, it just astounds me that they're that old. And the graduating classes were a lot smaller than they are today. There's talk of two schools, one in the south Barrington area, high schools I mean, and one where it is now. That's always been bandied about. Let's have two schools, because the school... I think they really wanted a, like a 1500 or a 1200 student high school rather than a 3000 or 2800 whatever it is, the population is now, which is getting close to 3000. A lot of us remember, I remember the high school I went to in Milwaukee, which was an all-boys Catholic high school, I think we had 400 total in the entire school for all the classes. So it's quite a difference. I think the perception that the students have of the school itself and the atmosphere that you get in a smaller school is much better than the big schools.

Memories of Barrington school? I don't have any.

Did I work in the Barrington area? Yea, I sure did, 30 years. I worked in Chicago for those first few years, and then, 11 years, and then came out to the Barrington area. My first job in the Barrington area was the one that I, the first one I had and the first one when I retired in 1970, I should say, the year 2000. Started in '70 and worked for 30 years, and then left in the year 2000. They threw a beautiful retirement party for me which was really really nice.

How much was I paid? For being a director of BACOG, the first job? I was paid I think in '70, like three or four hundred dollars a month. It wasn't much, I can tell you that.

During the Depression/WWII? I don't know anything about that.

4th of July has always been really great with all the parades and stuff.

Baby Face Nelson, I don't remember that although we all were cognizant of the fact that he was shot in this area.

The snowstorms, the monumental snowstorms we had. I can remember '67 which was a big...and '79 which was another big...that was huge, just trying to get home in that kind of weather when you had to come from the train station, and then get out onto these countryside roads, You just breathe a sigh of relief when you went through your front door. I remember the tornado in '67 that hit the north part of this area, tore up a lot of the houses in the north Barrington area. It was really something.

Fires? Major fires? I remember the fire at Lipofsky's building when that went down.

What changes? I think the area has changed because it's bigger, there are a lot more people here. They're still friendly, I think, a lot of the area has not changed in terms of its core values. I think the people who come I think they're younger now than they've been before, a lot of our couples are in their 30's, or mid to late 30s maybe? I made a famous remark that was quoted in the papers, "People in Barrington area are not intellectuals, they're successful managers for corporations, they're not intellectuals." A lot of people took exception to that, but I still believe that. I think we're loaded, we have a lot of really good organizers and managers here who work for major corporations. But this is not, it's

always been tough to get people to buy into the more intellectual pursuits in this area for some reason, I don't know why that is. I don't say that we don't have intellectuals, we do. Tally Wilder (?) on Lake St. used to have some great book club meetings there at her place. Her husband, I'm trying to think of his name, absolutely incredibly marvelous person. One of the true gentlemen that ever lived in this area. But, intellectuals? I think you know when we tried to get the Arts Council going for instance, it was a really tough, tough job we had. And we had, we tried to sponsor things like we did the dances at that, that were at the Hough St School in the gymnasium there, we had dances and things that were put on by the, we brought out the dance and song groups from like, people from like 15-20 countries. We had an international folk festival kind of thing here. The Arts Council did that. Of course I can remember when we had, I had tried to convince the guys to help put up the stage and this was in the Hough St School. But it turned out to be a great evening.

I still think we have an incredible countryside, which is amazing that after 30 years, when you think, you know, there were 7,000 housing units proposed for this area and look what you got. You only got, today I think we have only around 40,000 people roughly. Maybe like high 30s, and 40s, low 40s if anything. And that's still for 90 square miles. That's incredible. People come out there and they're just astounded by the beauty of that countryside and they should be. A lot of work by a lot of people that it took to preserve that.

I think Sam Oliver is another name you should know. Do you know her? Um-hm. Oh you do? Sure do. You know these people personally? Um-hm. Oh you do? I do. Oh. Sam, unbelievable. She helped put on that art festival, all those countries and stuff, and Bob helped put the stages up. Bob's another great guy, a pilot, incredible guy. Sam has been, if you could clone Sam, and create, you know, 60 Sams, you could have this area what it is, but 60 times over. Because she's been at the core of so many things here, not just her work for the Citizens for the Conservation work in this area, but for everything in this area, along with raising her kids. I remember my older son went with her daughter for a while. I have two families, I've been divorced so I have two families. But my one son who lives on a ranch in Montana used to go with one of Sam's daughters. He's 46 now, and he's selling his ranch and he bought some land in New Mexico and he bought, he built this incredible cabin, log cabin about 7 miles away from his present ranch. He's just finishing it up now and it's gorgeous, just gorgeous country and stuff. He bought some land in New Mexico and he is opening an art gallery. I went out to visit him just recently. We went to the Cody western art auction in Cody Montana. He made a little money when he sold the ranch and he sold his kayak business in Hilton Head which he ran for years and years, made a lot of money there, so he just casually bought \$8000 worth of art. I thought holy cow but really and sculpture work really great stuff. His collection must be worth about \$200000, but he's got great taste, he's got good taste in art and stuff. So when my daughter and I went with him, we had a great time going there.

I can remember when he first went to the high school. Not my present children but Don and John and Jennifer. And Don went to the high school, and he decided he'd go out for the tennis team, and he has the same kind of a smart mouth that he has today, he's got a 149 IQ, which is, he's a very bright lad but he has a tendency to open his mouth when he shouldn't.

So he got into a big fight with the rest of the tennis team. He was a freshman, he was trying to tell these sophomores and juniors how to play tennis. I remember I told you we had a tennis court on the property in South Barrington. They took exception to that, so they tore his uniform, just tore it up, they broke his rackets, they did everything. So I went over to, he came home with all this stuff, this debris. So I went back to, I knew the tennis coach, and I said you know what the hell is going on here? You can't permit this kind of thing, I said I know it was probably his fault for opening his mouth, but you can't permit this kind of thing to go on. So he took it in his hand. One of the seniors on the team took him under his wing and really really became a friend to him, and they finally all accepted him. And he did well, he played for

Miami of Ohio, first string singles. And then he and his brother played doubles. And I remember, he invited me to see he and his brother play in the Ohio Pickle Tournament in I can't even remember the name of the town, it's in Ohio someplace. It was called the Pickle Tournament. It was such a funny deal, because it was such a small beat up tournament. But I went up to see him play in the Minnesota high school tennis tournament for the high schools players and he was in the finals of the singles, he was very good; and he and John were in the doubles semi-finals I think. But I was so, you know, typical jock parent, I went up and I stood right at the fence to look at him while he played. He stopped the match right in the middle, walked over to me and he says, "if you don't go, I don't play". And he stopped. He just, he wouldn't play. So I had to sit down; It was too much. Memories yah yah.

What else is there? I don't know. I think I told you a lot of what I knew.

What this area was like back in those days? What South Barrington was like back in those days? Barrington Hills for instance, always worried about Carpentersville, always worried about what kind of people were going to move in. Unbelievable, the properties we had out there along the various roads. Bateman Road, the Batemans. Bateman was a character; he had this absolutely gorgeous property in Barrington Hills. Jim Bateman, not Jim Bateman, I can't think of what his name is. They named the, they named the Bateman Road after his ancestors I think. And he had this beautiful barn. And he had, we would hold our, some of our early Art Council meetings in his barn, which was a rec room kind of thing. But he always had cases of scotch, the best scotch, and bourbon, and you know, all the best liquors of every kind, so the people would start drinking at the beginning of the meeting. And within about an hour, they would all stand up and look at me and they'd all say "the executive director will proceed" and out they'd march. All crooked to the gills you know and that was it, that was the end of the meeting, "the executive director will proceed," and out they'd go. And I don't know how they got home. I was surprised they got home at all. It was incredible. But I do remember those meetings. Unbelievable, unbelievable.

You remember not only the events but you remember some of the people that were here that aren't anymore. My former assistant, Durs Anderson. I don't know if you know Durs. Sounds vaguely familiar. He was with friends of the river downtown, and he lives out in McHenry County in a house he... we tore the house down in Barrington, all of us together, like a hundred people, loaded it into cars, trucks, buses, and whatever we could find to take it. We took all the wood and everything out to his site out there which has a nice barn on it, we took all the wood out there. And Durs was the, before he became my assistant, he was an architect and a very good one; and he designed his own house, and we all went out there and helped him build it. Like a 100 some people. Right from Barrington, right from... Durs is a character he really is; he's now a father, which I could never believe him being a father because he was such an absolute character. He, Durs walked from Chicago to California, every foot of the way, and he wrote a diary of the whole thing. Unbelievable. He usually gives speeches, you might have Durs come in and give a speech sometime at the library, because he told about his walk and the people he met, and I think he met Tom Brokaw's parents. He just, the things he got into along the way. He, I think he got hurt just in the first like 20 or 30 miles heading towards Rockford, and he, but he kept going despite the fact that I think he hurt his foot or arm or something. But he walked all the way across the country. He just, I mean, he's got great stories to tell of the people he met and the places he saw, unbelievable man, he was a good assistant.

Bob Kosin who's the administrator at Barrington Hills used to be my assistant also. Bob has got a mind like a bear trap, he remembers. Bob doesn't look at, is never very good at the big picture, you know the visionary stuff and stuff, but at details, unbelievable detailed man. You know, he could, you could, he'd had a good memory for detail also but he's done a good job at Barrington Hills. Barb Hansen, who used to be the mayor of Barrington Hills. I don't know if you know Barb. I don't know her, I know the name. Yah. Well Barb, well she was head of BACOG for awhile. The only, she and Susie Craig who used to be

up at, I don't know if you know that name. Used to be the mayor of North Barrington. Susie would get into fights with everybody. I can remember, oh I have to, this one I have to tell you. We were having a big meeting in North Barrington, for what became the Wynstone development. But before that there was the Louis Draper, the developer, who was going to put in a development in of 600 houses, and the people up there didn't want that dense a development. And so Louis was testifying in front of the plan commission, hundreds of people out front and you know, and Louie's planner said, "for God's sake I don't know what you people are always yanting and raving about how much wildlife there is out here, and how much wildlife is on that land, he said there's no wildlife at all on that property." And Fran Hardy, who was our friend, Fran was a good guy. He worked for the state dept, natural resources and stuff and he had come up for the meeting. I had invited him up. And Fran had a mole, a live mole in his pocket. Oh, No. Yah. And he said, and he wanted to respond to this developer saying there was no wildlife. So he stood up at the table where all the planning commission members and the village board and everything and hundreds of people out front, and says no wildlife, and he says here. Well this mole went down the table all the people jumped back and all the chairs went up, and there was this pandemonium with this mole running around. I'll never forget that. That was the wildest meeting I've ever been at. It was really crazy. But you know, we killed that development. But Louis's still a friend of mine the developer I still see him every once in a while. He doesn't do any more development though.

Well I see. I think that's...there are hundreds of other stories that I'm sure that I'll remember as I leave.

It's an incredible area in terms of its, not only its history, but it's the kind of people that have been here. I mean we've had , we've had our, I shouldn't say this, but we've had strange people in office here, in the village of Barrington. I only have to mention Reagle as one. But we've had other people who really left their mark on this area. You know, I mentioned Ruth and Art Moore, who were incredible people. The former, Walt Clark, who was the mayor of North Barrington. Fred Voss, Cy Wagner, Dolores Wagner Sam Oliver, Bob, that whole gang. I mean all these people, Durs, they really, I mean they did a lot of things that I don't think people will ever know about. The late night meetings we went to, the testimony when we were only maybe one or two people testifying to protect this area at various meetings and developer presentations and stuff. The land where the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve is now, that was supposed to be a development. And there were about oh I can't tell you how many people. Jim Perille, as much as Jim and I disagreed about a lot of things, because he was, as far as Jim was concerned, nobody else should've moved into the Barrington area, but you can't do that. But Jim, Jim was at that meeting too. And we said you know we didn't want that development for, I don't know how many homes were supposed to go there, 6 or 700 homes were supposed to be on that property. And we got Rich Anderson, who was a member of the county board in Lake County and who was a resident of North Barrington. We got Rich to propose that land for a forest preserve and what you see there now is the outcome of that. So there you go.

Well, I haven't drunk my coffee.

Well thank you. We have been speaking with Don Klein, the former head of BACOG and we certainly appreciate you sharing your memories with us.

Well thank you, it was nice being here.